

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /037 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN:KAD

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN

NSC:JFROEBE (SUBST)

S/S:WHLUERS

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R 242007Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 281152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS: FATHER EDICIO DE LA TORRE.

REF: MANILA 14831

1. NSC HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES REGARDING FATHER DE LA TORRE, COUPLED WITH ALLEGATION THAT HE IS BEING TORTURED. INQUIRY COMES FROM MRS. WHITE, WHOM WE UNDERSTAND TO BE OF PHILIPPINE ORIGIN. SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE AND HIGHLY EMPHATIC, IN ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN CHURCH ELEMENTS, IN PROTESTS FOCUSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS.

2. MAY WE USE FACTS REPORTED REFTEL IN RESPONDING TO SUCH INQUIRIES? ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP, PARTICULARLY RELATED TO DE LA TORRE'S HEALTH AND TREATMENT, WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. FOLLOWING BASED ON WASHINGTON BIO FILES: FATHER DE LA TORRE WAS ACTIVE IN SOCIETY OF DIVINE WORD IN 1969. IN 1970 THEN DESCRIBED AS LIBERAL YOUNG JESUIT, HE CIRCULATED PETITION CRITICISING ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE CARDINAL SANTOS. SUBSEQUENTLY, DE LA TORRE HAS DRIFTED TOWARD RADICAL POSITIONS AND EXTREMIST ASSOCIATES. HE IS CURRENTLY CHAIR-

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MAN OF CHRISTIANS FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. WOULD APPRECIATE

EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON THIS EVALUATION, WHICH IS FOR OUR
OWN USE AND NOT, REPEAT NOT, FOR RELEASE OUTSIDE USG.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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